

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

June 22, 2010

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School auditorium/library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice-Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Mary Walsh; Valerie Zuercher; Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar and Director of Administration Robert V. Ross were present.

ORDER – Chairperson DeSack called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Walsh read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – None

Recognitions/Achievements – Sr. High Girls' Softball Team – State Champions – This item was set aside momentarily.

Principal L. Boyce – Superintendent Geismar recognized resigning Principal Louise Boyce and expressed admiration for the terrific job she has done during her six-year tenure as Metcalf School principal. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack offered good

wishes and presented Mrs. Boyce with a School Committee Apple Recognition Award. Mrs. Boyce said it has been an honor to work in the district and expressed appreciation to her colleagues, the administrative team, and especially Assistant Principal Carol Fish.

Principal M. Thompson – Superintendent Geismar recognized resigning Principal Mark Thompson and expressed appreciation for all that Mr. Thompson has done. He said that in his six-year tenure, Mr. Thompson has always been willing to step up to do what it takes to make EWG Jr. High a great school. Mr. Thompson said that it has been an honor and expressed appreciation for his staff. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack offered Mr. Thompson wishes of continued success and presented him with a School Committee Apple Recognition Award.

Student Member Moore – This item was dismissed, as Student Member Moore was unavailable to attend tonight's meeting.

Teacher of the Year – 2010 – Superintendent Geismar recognized Kathleen Levett as Teacher of the Year - 2010. He congratulated her and reported that Mrs. Levett has been teacher of the year once before when she worked as a special education teacher at the junior high school, and now has been selected for her work as a second grade teacher at Wawaloam School. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack offered congratulations and presented Mrs. Levett with a School Committee Apple Recognition Award.

Presentation – Student Member Report – None

Sr. High Girls' Softball Team – State Champions – Superintendent Geismar said it has been a bittersweet year for the district. The football team won the championship and then suffered a tragedy with the loss of Coach Messier right before softball season began.

The girls on the softball team dedicated the season to Coach Messier and had a great season. Scott Burns volunteered and Nicole Pichette and Joe Abarr all came together, stepped up, and did an outstanding job coaching the team. Dr. Geismar called Mrs. Messier forward to receive the School Committee Apple Recognition Award that would have been given to her husband Coach Messier. Mrs. Messier expressed heartfelt thanks to the EWG community and to the softball and football players who she said have all been outstanding to her family. She expressed how proud her husband would be and she thanked Scott, Nicole, and Joe for picking up the pieces just a week before the season began. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack presented Apple Recognition Awards to the coaches. Principal Butler expressed sincere appreciation for the overwhelming support students received from Mrs. Messier and the coaches. He explained that members of the softball team were unable to attend tonight's meeting because they are studying for exams, and several of the girls are taking part in the state tournament.

All School Committee members, with the exception of Vice Chair Cicero, moved to the library at this time, (6:20 p.m.) to continue the meeting.

Facilities Presentation – This item was set aside at this time.

Metcalf A.Y.P. Update – Chair DeSack advised that this item would continue to a future agenda because the data from the state has not been released yet.

Jr. High State Technology Assessment Results – Principal Thompson reported last year was the first year that the state technology assessments were given. All eighth graders in the state are now required to take the assessments.

Vice Chair Cicero returned to the meeting at this time, (6:29 p.m.).

Mr. Thompson said he is proud to report that EWG Junior High students performed well on the assessments. EWG ranked eleventh in the state of all middle schools. Ninety percent of students met proficiency in technology.

Facilities Presentation – Director of Maintenance William Plumley reported on the overall conditions of each school site. He expressed appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the

custodial/maintenance staff. At the suggestion of Chair DeSack, Mr. Plumley said that he would look into searching for a used or donated automatic floor scrubber for the junior-senior high school, as the current machine is approximately 21-

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 22, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

years old and replacement parts are becoming more and more difficult to find. He reported the cost for a new machine is approximately \$15,000. A brief discussion took place concerning the security system, which falls under the Capital Project, and the maintenance department's responsibilities for maintaining the new athletic field.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member Bollengier made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Vice Chair Cicero seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of June 9, 2010; Executive Session Minutes of June 9, 2010

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

- a. Letter of Resignation from Jim Alves resigning from his position as Assistant Sr. High School Football Coach, effective June 14, 2010

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

- a. Please see attached Certified Revised List
- b. Please see attached C-94 List

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$200,781.00

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) June 22, 2010 Memorandum from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee Regarding Drug Sniffing Dogs

Chair DeSack advised that Correspondence (1) would need to go on a future agenda for discussion. She said that this subject matter has come before the School Committee once before. The previous School Committee was not opposed to this procedure taking place; however, there were concerns about what consequences students would face. Chair DeSack advised that this procedure could not take

place this school year. She recommended reviewing past School Committee meeting minutes to verify the previous outcome of discussion on this matter. Vice Chair Cicero said that she recalls the previous School Committee did have their concerns answered. However, this never occurred

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH

June 22, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4

because Principal Boulé was opposed. Chair DeSack advised that there needs to be written process in place first to ensure parents and students understand the consequences and so that the committee does not have to revisit this topic every school year. Consensus of the committee was to be proactive rather than reactive. Suggestions were made to disclose procedural details on this matter to parents and students in the student handbook. Dr. Geismar recommended seeking legal advice. Vice Chair Cicero said that she would like to know if other school districts disclose this information in their student handbooks. Principal Butler said he would research and bring back information about other school districts' practices. Member Rafanelli said that there are students who are afraid and may feel better and more comfortable to see this item in the student handbook. He expressed his opinion that this should be a deterrent and not to "catch" people. Member Walsh agreed that students and parents should be informed upfront. Member Zuercher agreed there should be written procedure, and she pointed out that this would be similar to the breathalyzer disclosure.

Budget Update 2010 – 2011 – Director of Administration Robert Ross gave an update on the 2010 – 2011 budget. He said that he is happy with the latest information he received late yesterday afternoon regarding state aid, which indicates a result of approximately \$82,000 better than budget on the income side. He reported that the state has specified that ARRA SFSF funds can be used at this time, if a district needs next year's funds to balance this year's budget. The district will finish this year better than anticipated and will keep the designated funds for next year. Mr. Ross reported on the group home reimbursement. He explained that currently there are eight beds unoccupied. Thus, resulting in a \$120,000 Group Home Aid reduction based on the census of the group home taken in December. It is evident that those beds will be reoccupied. When the state does the census for 2010, it will apply back the funds to the district for the third and fourth payment for next school year. Mr. Ross answered Member Bollengier's inquiry regarding the AARA SFSF funds early disbursement option. Mr. Ross gave his opinion that the district will be fine financially if the state leaves it alone. Although, he does anticipate that the state will come back again next year to say that there will be cuts to town or schools.

NEW BUSINESS – SORICO Update – Dr. Geismar reported that SORICO has been in the process of reinventing itself to become the resource to districts that it needs to be. At the last SORICO meeting, it was agreed that the dues would be raised from \$2 per student to \$5

per student. A portion of the dues will go for prepaid services, which will allow all SORICO districts to participate in the development of the new professional evaluations process that is required. It was also agreed to pool half of all of the districts' RTTT funds to pay for the evaluation and curriculum work that needs to be done to comply with the new regulations. Member Walsh said that she is in agreement with the changes and thinks that it will be successful. The new process ensures funding for events/services and encourages districts to send participants because they will have prepaid for services.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH

June 22, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

Metcalf Principal Selection Committee – Superintendent Geismar requested the committee appoint parent representatives and two School Committee representatives to serve on the Metcalf Principal Search Committee. Dr. Geismar said that he would also select a designee and four staff members to serve.

Member Bollengier made a motion to appoint Clerk Coutcher and Member Zuercher to the Metcalf Principal Selection Committee. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Consensus of the committee was to draw parent representative names from a hat, and to have two parent representatives from each

town on the selection committee.

The following parent representative names were drawn:

Stacy Bouthillier - Exeter

Kathy Rumsey - Exeter

Claudine Pande - West Greenwich

Pietro Petrarca - West Greenwich

Superintendent Geismar left the meeting at this time, (7:28 p.m.).

Stop Loss Consulting Services – Director of Administration Robert Ross put forth his recommendation and asked for consensus from the committee to use Cornerstone Group to provide Stop Loss Insurance Underwriting Consulting Services to the district.

Superintendent Geismar returned to the meeting at this time, (7:29 p.m.).

Mr. Ross briefly explained Stop Loss Insurance and answered Member Bollengier's clarifying questions. Consensus of the committee was to accept Mr. Ross' recommendation.

Policy Recommendations for Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools Protocol, (NECHPS) – Director of Administration Robert Ross informed the School Committee that

NE-CHPS policies and operational procedures relating to Indoor Air Quality and Integrated Pest Management will need to be developed and approved to meet the revised school construction regulations. Mr. Ross said when he meets with RIDE on Friday; he will present the enclosed pest policy template and will inform them that EWG has procedures in place. If after that meeting a policy is indeed necessary, the policy subcommittee will be called upon to write it.

Bid Award – Auditing Services – Member Walsh made a motion to award the bid for auditing services to Bacon & Company. Member Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 22, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Approve Proposed Budget Cuts 2010 – 2011 – Superintendent Geismar referenced the new revised proposed 2010 – 2011 budget cuts enclosed in members' supplemental packets.

He said that he would like to move forward with the Job Fair tomorrow and requested to hold off on the .5 FTE nurse/teacher position and the substance abuse counselor. He advised that depending on the outcome of the Job Fair, there is a good chance there will be a need to hire a .5 FTE Reading Recovery teacher for Wawaloam School. Dr. Geismar asked for the committees' consent to go forward with these recommendations at this time. Consensus of the committee was to accept the Superintendent's recommended cuts

as enclosed in members' supplemental packets. (See Attached)

Principal Thompson reported that he has submitted a Declaration of Intent to the RI Principals' Association for all current junior high sports programs. Next, Mr. Thompson advocated for moving to trimesters at the junior high school next year as a means to save costs and listed various reasons for his recommendation. Chair DeSack advised that since this discussion has moved off the subject of budget cuts and turned to scheduling, this subject matter shall be added to the July meeting agenda for discussion.

Sr. Project Steering Committee – Principal Butler disseminated a document listing the significant proposed changes to senior seminar grading as recommended by the Steering Committee. (See Attached) He explained that items in red are to be eliminated. Mr. Butler requested the School Committees' endorsement of the document he handed out this evening, the reduction of the number of common tasks from 31 to 16, and the elimination of the mentor requirement.

Member Walsh made a motion to approve the corrections to Senior Seminar as presented. Vice Chair Cicero seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

In response to Principal Butler's inquiry, Chair DeSack and Vice Chair Cicero confirmed that the approved motion pertains to all three requests presented by Principal Butler this evening on behalf of the

Steering Committee.

Transportation Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that Ocean State Transit has submitted a report that shows the district could save up to \$85,443 on private out-of-district transportation costs through route consolidation and pricing. Upon review, the state has said they could do the same consolidation to lower costs. The new school-financing formula includes a transportation component that is contingent upon participation in the statewide transportation program. Failure to participate fully in the statewide program could jeopardize aid on a prorated basis, which could cancel out any of the savings based upon pricing. The district is expected to receive \$128,328 for fiscal year 2012 transportation, contingent on full participation for all out of district, private and special education busing under the current structure. The \$128,328 is actually one-tenth

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH

June 22, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 7

of what the district will receive because the new funding formula has a 10-year phase in. If the district does not participate, it will put those funds at risk.

Capital Project Update – Dr. Geismar reported that Mr. Ross attended a RI Department of Health, (DOH) hearing today regarding Metcalf

School's water system project plans. DOH has asked the engineer to provide additional information on the water system. The engineer will be providing the required information. RIDE has given the architect a list of issues regarding NE-CHPS that must be resolved no later than July 15 in order for the district to receive reimbursement from the state. Dr. Geismar said that Mr. Torrado has assured him the issues will be resolved so that reimbursement will not be jeopardized. Mr. Ross reported he is confident the district will meet the July 15 deadline it needs to in order to receive reimbursement from the state for the 2010 – 2011 school year. He explained that NE-CHPS represents new requirements of what the state wants in place from school district. Mr. Ross reported it will cost \$28,000 to bring the security system to completion. The task of securing vendors for that project has fallen to Mr. Plumley, Mr. Ross, and Mr. Wright. The architect is convinced the district is at 95% to 98% of completion on the Capital Bond Project.

Reports/Comments – None

Important Dates and Meetings – Thursday, June 24, 2010-Moving Up Ceremony; Friday, June 25, 2010-Last Day of School, Tuesday, July 20, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, August 10, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, August 24, 2010-School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Vice Chair

Cicero moved to go into Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a)(1) – Personnel and 42-46-5(a)(9) – CBA – Grievance(s). Member Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:23 p.m.

Member Walsh moved to reconvene to Open Session. Clerk Coutcher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:39 p.m.

No votes were taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment - Member Bollengier moved to adjourn at 8:39 p.m.

Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK